

Public Art Examples

Imagining Neighborhood Public Art

What could this project be?

- Because the Neighborhood Public Art project is purpose-driven and not project-driven, we do not have a specific end-product in mind like a mural, sculpture, or sign.
- While the vague nature makes it difficult to explain and understand the project, it allows for much more flexibility to deliver what the community wants.
- The following are some examples of other purpose-driven public art projects that began by centering the needs and wants of a specific community as we plan to do.
- Many of these projects had a larger budget and longer timeline than we do, but they are still useful sources of inspiration as we begin this project.

How can community-based arts initiatives bring social cohesion and develop a sense of character for an urban neighborhood?

- For a project called Activating Vacancy, artists and designers were commissioned to work collaboratively with residents to develop and execute projects that investigated, strengthened, and shared the community's unique history while planning for its renewal and growth.
- Collaborations included installations, performances, and other artistic actions that explored the cultural, social, political and economic life of a historic neighborhood.



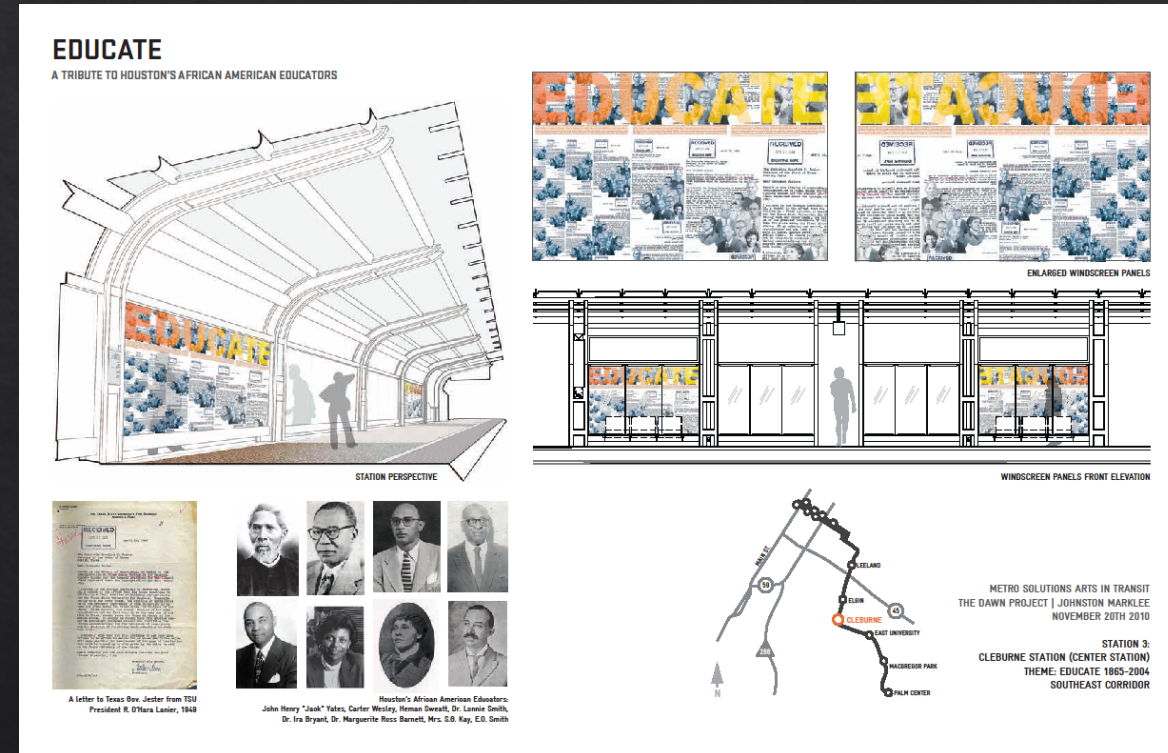
How can hands-on art-making provide a strong pathway for individual and community healing?

- Porch Light, a collaboration with the City of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services, focuses on achieving universal health and wellness among Philadelphians, especially those dealing with mental health issues or trauma.
- They do this by creating murals and transformed public spaces that are the final products of year-round Porch Light workshops, community meetings, health forums, and paint days.



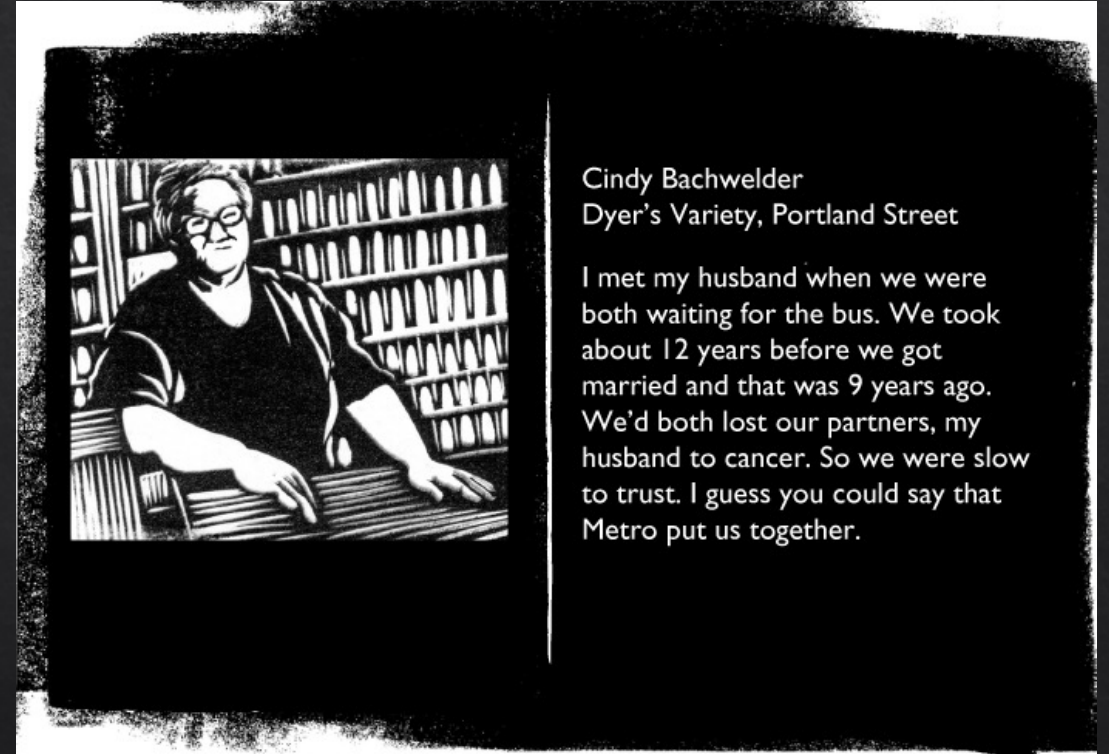
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- For an area of Houston that had long had a sluggish economy and high crime rates, an arts-based community development plan helped to transform the district into an inspiring place to live.
- By linking community members with artists, architects, and designers, the project helped to develop a more cohesive neighborhood by identifying potential arts-based community projects, placing art works at key public spaces and transit nodes, and by making improvements to public landscapes.
- Tangible project components included: renovated park with community garden and demonstration kitchen; artistic and educational transit stops (pictured); cultural festivals



How can neighborhood groups harness the power of art to help fulfill their mission?

- From her position as an employee of the City of Portland, artist Marty Pottenger noticed that many public meetings were either poorly attended or did not seem to reflect the diversity of people that lived in each area.
- The Meeting Place project partnered with four neighborhood associations and a team of multidisciplinary artists to encourage new connections and relationships with residents who reflected the diversity within their own communities and to create artwork(s) that celebrate the people and places that make up each area.
- Tangible outcomes included workshops on printmaking, storytelling, history, chorale singing; public artworks were created as a result.



How can art address decades of disinvestment in residential neighborhoods?

- Breathing Lights illuminated the windows of hundreds of vacant buildings in Albany, Schenectady and Troy, NY. Warm light filled each window with a diffuse glow that mimicked the gentle rhythm of human breathing. Concentrated in neighborhoods with high levels of vacancy, Breathing Lights transformed abandoned structures from pockets of shadows into places of warmth.
- Through youth media projects, building reclamation clinics, community arts presentations, gallery talks, policy discussions and more, Breathing Lights' goal was to create an evocative, inclusive experience that transformed perceptions of vacant buildings and showcased an arts-based approach to stimulating local and regional revitalization.



How can a community-led, arts-based initiative generate changes that produce health and end racist practices?

- Louisville resident Hannah Drake was struck by the stark absence of racial representation and the prevalence of predatory advertising in her predominantly Black neighborhood of Smoketown.
- In response, Drake and her collaborators began an initiative that replaced dozens of predatory billboard advertisements in Smoketown with beautiful photographs of its residents, and each featured a different powerful six-word poem written by community members.
- Soon after the initiative launched, the community was able to change city-wide policies regarding predatory advertising.



Defining Public Art

- The Chandler Arts Commission determines what “public art” means in Chandler, and that could look like artforms that are less traditional than physical objects but potentially more impactful.
- These projects are examples of ways to use art in public spaces to connect people, serve community needs, and uplift the role of culture in cities.
- Some of these projects did not produce a permanent physical object, nonetheless, most were produced by public arts agencies.